

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 1315-30

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Robert Snell et al.

Serial No.: 10/530,919

Filed: April 8, 2005

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Dated: July 27, 2005

For: **HIGH PRECISION MANUFACTURE OF POLYURETHANE PRODUCTS  
SUCH AS SPINAL DISC IMPLANTS HAVING GRADUAL MODULUS VARIATION**

**Mail Stop Amendment**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:


Pursuant to Applicant(s) duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached form PTO/SB/08A is brought to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the cited U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications are not provided pursuant to the waiver of this requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 for national applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on date below with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: July 27, 2005

  
Francesco Sardone

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /AS/

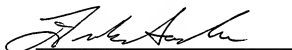
The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

- ☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.
- ☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application.
- ☒ To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.
- ☐ Enclosed herewith is a certificate under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ Enclosed herewith is a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(2).
  - ☐ Enclosed by check is the petition fee of \$130.00. (37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1))
  - ☐ Please charge the \$130.00 petition fee to Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Enclosed by check is the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- ☐ Please charge the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☒ Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account **50-2140**. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. **50-2140** therefor.

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Francesco Sardone  
Reg. No. 47,918  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

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FS/td



PTO/SB/06a (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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**Complete if Known****INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Application Number	10/530,919
Filing Date	April 8, 2005
First Named Inventor	Robert Snell et al.
Art Unit	To Be Assigned
Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	1315-30

Sheet 1 of 2

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US-5,545,229	08/13/1996	Parsons et al.	
		US-5,171,281	12/15/1992	Parsons et al.	
		US-6,248,131	06/19/2001	Felt et al.	
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>4</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>3</sup> Kind Code <sup>3</sup> (if known)				
		WO 02/11975 A1	02/14/2002	Ranier		
		0 464 886 A2	01/08/1992	General Motors Corporation		
		WO 93/16664	09/02/1993	Limbs & Things Limited		
		0 464 514 B1	01/15/1992	Robert Bosch GMBH		
		0 627 204 A2	12/07/1994	Bristol-Myers Squibb Company		

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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**Complete if Known**

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First Named Inventor	Robert Snell et al.
Art Unit	To Be Assigned
Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	1315-30

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### NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

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Examiner Signature	/Ann Schillinger/	Date Considered	04/22/2009
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Applicant's undivided attention designated to the following: 1. It is to be noted a check mark must be placed in the English language box. This declaration of information is required for 37 C.F.R. 1.57 and 1.58. 2. If the applicant is not required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and) the applicant is not required to file, Confidentiality is required for U.S.C. 122 and 37 C.F.R. 1.14. This declaration is required to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.